

P/ NT COOPERATION TREAT

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION
(PCT Rule 61.2)

Date of mailing: 28 December 2000 (28.12.00)	To: Commissioner US Department of Commerce United States Patent and Trademark Office, PCT 2011 South Clark Place Room CP2/5C24 Arlington, VA 22202 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE in its capacity as elected Office
International application No.: PCT/AU00/00691	Applicant's or agent's file reference: 463998C
International filing date: 21 June 2000 (21.06.00)	Priority date: 21 June 1999 (21.06.99)
Applicant: SABATO, Alberto, B.	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International preliminary Examining Authority on:

14 November 2000 (14.11.00)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer: J. Zahra Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

16

Applicant's or agent's file reference 463998c	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU00/00691	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 21 June 2000	Priority Date (day/month/year) 21 June 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 B41J 5/12, 5/10		
Applicant SABATO, Alberto B		

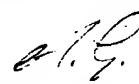
1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 8 sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14 November 2000	Date of completion of the report 1 March 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer  ADRIANO GIACOBETTI Telephone No. (02) 6283 2579

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

the international application as originally filed.

the description, pages 1, 2, 7-14 as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages 3-6 received on 3 January 2001 with the letter of 2 January 2001

the claims, pages , as originally filed,
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand;
pages 15-18 received on 3 January 2001 with the letter of 2 January 2001

the drawings, pages 1/10-10/10 as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of

the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, was on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages

the claims, Nos.

the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents identified in the International Search Report have been considered for the purposes of this report:

- (D1) US 5583497 A (HANKES)
- (D2) GB 2134042 A (THE LAITRAM CORP)
- (D3) GB 2087313 A (SOCIETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A.)
- (D4) WO 81/02272 A (LITTERICK)
- (D5) US 4180336 A (LONSDALE)

NOVELTY(N) AND INVENTIVE STEP(IS): Claim 1-10

The invention of independent claims 1, 3, 6, 9, and 10 relates to a key for a keyboard or keypad having a particular arrangement of ridge lines to give a typist the exact feel of where the typist's finger is located. The key has either a ridge adjacent a top edge or a bottom edge, and a ridge on either a left or right side.

The claimed invention is not obvious in the light of any of the above cited documents (D1) to (D5) nor disclosed in any obvious combination, nor would the claimed invention be obvious to a person skilled in the art in the light of common general knowledge by itself or in combination with any of these documents. Hence the invention of claims 1, 3, 6, 9 and 10 is novel and involves an inventive step.

The closest prior art of documents (D1) and (D5) discloses keys of keypads or keyboards having a ridge profile on particular keys as locating guides for fingers of a user. However, these ridges are not of the particular arrangement defined nor are they located in the defined positions on the key.

The remaining claims are appended to these independent claims 1, 3 and 6; and therefore are also considered to be novel and involve an inventive step.

Consequently the invention of claims 1-10 is considered to meet the requirements of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) of the PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY(IA): Claims 1-10

The invention of claims 1-10 meets the requirements of Article 33(4) of the PCT because the invention can be made or used in industry.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
28 December 2000 (28.12.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 00/78551 A1

(51) International Patent Classification: B41J 5/12, 5/10

(51) Designated States (regional): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SI, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/00691

(22) International Filing Date: 21 June 2000 (21.06.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

PQ 1115	21 June 1999 (21.06.1999)	AU
PQ 4525	8 December 1999 (08.12.1999)	AU

(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: SABATO, Alberto, B. (IT/AU); 21 Clanalpine Street, Mosman, NSW 2088 (AU)

(74) Agent: SPRUSON & FERGUSON, GPO Box 3898, Sydney, NSW 2001 (AU).

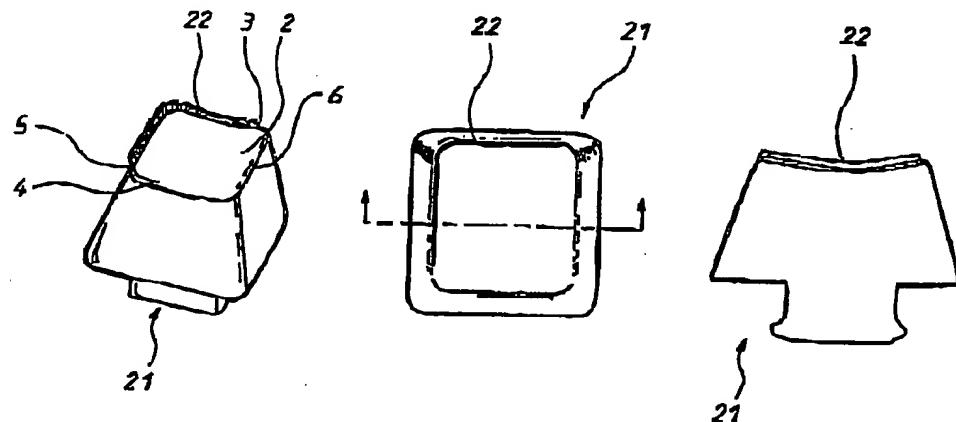
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A LOCATING KEY FOR A KEYBOARD OR KEYPAD



WO 00/78551 A1

(57) Abstract: Key (21) for a keyboard or keypad, having an upper finger engaging surface (2) of generally square or rectangular configuration so as to have a top edge portion (3) remote from a user, a bottom edge portion (4) adjacent the user, a left edge portion (5) and a right edge portion (6), the key further having a ridge (22) adjacent the top edge portion (3) or the bottom edge portion (4) and extending longitudinally generally parallel thereto, and a ridge (5) on the left edge portion (5). The keys may be arranged in a keyboard or keypad to provide tactile identification of rows or blocks of keys.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU00/00691

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: B41J 5/12, 5/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC B41J 5/-, G03G 1/-, G05C 7/-, G06F 3/-, G09B 13/-, H01H 13/70Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
AU: IPC B41J 5/10, 5/12Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPAT plus keywords

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5583497 A (HANKES) 10 December 1996 See whole document, particularly figure 2.	1-10
A	GB 2134042 A (THE LAITRAM CORP) 8 August 1984 See whole document	1-10
A	GB 2087313 A (SOCIETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A.) 26 May 1982 See whole document	1-10
A	WO 8102272 A (LITTERICK) 20 August 1981 See whole document, particularly page 41 lines 11-20 & figure 7.	1-10

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents.	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document relating to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 August 2000	Date of mailing of the international search report 30 AUG 2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WOOLLEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer DEREK BUTLER Telephone No: (02) 6283 2347

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application N
PCT/AU00/00691

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4180336 A (LONSDALE) 25 December 1979 See whole document	1-10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU00/00691

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member			
US	5583497	WO	9813937	AU	73753/96	
GB	2134042	CA	1213067	CA	1213987	CA 1221465
		CA	1224737	CA	1243096	DE 3401941
		DE	3401976	DE	3401942	FR 2539891
		FR	2539895	FR	2539896	GB 2133745
		GB	2134293	GB	2134294	GR 2149946
		IT	1221791	IT	1221795	IT 1221796
		JP	5913946/	JP	59140547	JP 59140548
		JP	59205635	US	4547860	US 4549279
		US	4910697	US	4924431	US 4999795
		US	5008847	US	5038046	US 5067103
		US	5105375	US	5121940	US 5245559
		US	5383141	US	4994992	US 4891777
		US	5289394	US	4631700	US 4567567
		US	4680725	US	4860234	US 5062070
		US	5003503	US	5184315	CA 1300756
		EP	294518	JP	63311523	CA 1307351
		EP	306063	JP	1072257	US 5757350
		US	5092665	US	5296953	US 5559616
		US	5774102	US	5877739	CA 1278890
		DE	3501982	GB	2156131	CD 2204172
		HK	711/91	HK	712/91	JP 61149933
		SG	559/91	SG	560/91	JP 61140924
		FR	2558606	JP	60156047	JP 60156046
		JP	62049601			
GB	2087313	AU	69825/81	BR	8102888	CA 1158590
		CH	636715	DE	3117186	DK 1839/81
		EP	39853	ES	502047	ES 8205471
		FI	811278	GR	74895	JP 57006929
		MY	589/85	NO	811536	PH 20815
		SG	287/84	ZA	8102954	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family membersInternational application No.
PCT/AU00/00691

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Members			
WO	8102272	EP	45307	CD	2071578		
US	4180336	AU	41964/78	CA	1132114	GB	2009047

END OF ANNEX

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 463998c	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPBA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU00/00691	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 21 June 2000	Priority Date (day/month/year) 21 June 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int CL B41J 5/12, 5/10		
Applicant SADATO, Alberto B		

.. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

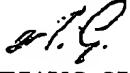
.. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 8 sheet(s)

: This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report
II	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority
III	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention
V	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited
VII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application
VIII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14 November 2000	Date of completion of the report 1 March 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPBA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA e-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au Fax number: (02) 6283 3929	Authorized Officer  ADRIANO GIACOBETTI Telephone No. (02) 6283 2579

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application N.

PCT/AU00/00691

I. Basis of the report	
1. With regard to the elements of the international application: <input type="checkbox"/> the international application as originally filed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the description, pages 1, 2, 7-14 as originally filed, pages , filed with the demand, pages 3-6 received on 3 January 2001 with the letter of 2 January 2001 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the claims, pages , as originally filed, pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19, pages , filed with the demand, pages 15-18 received on 3 January 2001 with the letter of 2 January 2001 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the drawings, pages 1/10-10/10 as originally filed, pages , filed with the demand, pages , received on with the letter of <input type="checkbox"/> the sequence listing part of the description: pages , as originally filed pages , filed with the demand pages , received on with the letter of	
2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is: <input type="checkbox"/> the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). <input type="checkbox"/> the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). <input type="checkbox"/> the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).	
3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, was on the basis of the sequence listing: <input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application in written form. <input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form. <input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. <input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. <input type="checkbox"/> The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. <input type="checkbox"/> The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished <input type="checkbox"/> The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: <input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages <input type="checkbox"/> the claims, Nos. <input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/fig.	
<input type="checkbox"/> This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**	
Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17). Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00691

V.	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
..	Statement		
Novelty (N)	Claims 1-10	Claims	YES
			NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-10	Claims	YES
			NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-10	Claims	YES
			NO

.. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents identified in the International Search Report have been considered for the purposes of this report:

- (D1) US 5583497 A (HANKES)
- (D2) GB 2134042 A (THE LAITRAM CORP)
- (D3) GB 2087313 A (SOCIETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A.)
- (D4) WO 81/02272 A (LITTERICK)
- (D5) US 4180336 A (LONSDALE)

NOVELTY(N) AND INVENTIVE STEP(IS): Claims 1-10

The invention of independent claims 1, 3, 6, 9, and 10 relates to a key for a keyboard or keypad having a particular arrangement of ridge lines to give a typist the exact feel of where the typist's finger is located. The key has either a ridge adjacent a top edge or a bottom edge, and a ridge on either a left or right side.

The claimed invention is not obvious in the light of any of the above cited documents (D1) to (D5) nor disclosed in any obvious combination, nor would the claimed invention be obvious to a person skilled in the art in the light of common general knowledge by itself or in combination with any of these documents. Hence the invention of claims 1, 3, 6, 9 and 10 is novel and involves an inventive step.

The closest prior art of documents (D1) and (D5) discloses keys of keypads or keyboards having a ridge profile on particular keys as locating guides for fingers of a user. However, these ridges are not of the particular arrangement defined nor are they located in the defined positions on the key.

The remaining claims are appended to these independent claims 1, 3 and 6; and therefore are also considered to be novel and involve an inventive step.

Consequently the invention of claims 1-10 is considered to meet the requirements of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) of the PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY(IA): Claims 1-10

The invention of claims 1-10 meets the requirements of Article 33(4) of the PCT because the invention can be made or used in industry.

INTENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 28 December 2000 (28.12.00)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference 163988C	IMPORTANT NOTICE	
International application No. PCT/AU00/00691	International filing date (day/month/year) 21 June 2000 (21.06.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 21 June 1999 (21.06.99)
Applicant SABATO, Alberto, B.		

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:
AG,AU,BZ,DZ,KP,KR,MZ,US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

AE,AL,AM,AP,AT,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BY,CA,CH,CN,CR,CU,CZ,DE,DK,DM,EA,EE,EP,ES,FI,GB,GD,GE,GH,GM,HR,HU,ID,IL,IN,IS,JP,KE,KG,KZ,LC,LK,LK,LS,LT,LU,LV,MA,MD,MG,MK,MN,MW,MX,NO,NZ,OA,PL,PT,RO,RU,SD,SE,SG,SI,SK,SL,TJ,TM,TR,TT,TZ,UA,UG,UZ,VN,YU,ZA,ZW
The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 28 December 2000 (28.12.00) under No. WO 00/78551

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the national phase, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer J. Zahra
Faxsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

Form PCT/IB/308 (July 1998)

3735798

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL
NO.: EL 728245373 US

The document must be filed directly with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority or, if two or more Authorities are competent, with the one chosen by the applicant. The full name or two-letter code of that Authority may be indicated by the applicant on the claim below:

IPEA/

PCT

CHAPTER II

DEMAND

under Article 31 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty,
the undersigned requests that the international application specified below be the subject of
international preliminary examination according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only

Identification of IPEA	Date of receipt of DEMAND
Box No. I IDENTIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION	
International application No. PCT/A1100/00691	International filing date (day/month/year) 28 June 2000 (28/06/00)
(Earliest) Priority date (day/month/year) 21 June 1999 (21/06/99)	
Title of invention A LOCATING KEY FOR A KEYBOARD OR KEYPAD	
Box No. II APPLICANT(S)	
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country) SABATO, Alberto B 21 Clan Alpine Street Mosman, New South Wales, 2088 AUSTRALIA	
Telephone No.:	
Facsimile No.:	
Teleprinter No.:	
State (i.e. country) of nationality: Italy	State (i.e. country) of residence: Australia
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country)	
State (i.e. country) of nationality:	State (i.e. country) of residence:
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country)	
State (i.e. country) of nationality:	State (i.e. country) of residence:

Further applicants are indicated on a continuation sheet.
 Form PCT/IPEA/101 (first sheet)(January 1994)

See Notes to the demand form.

[R:\LIBU]10225.doc:ezl

Sheet No. 2

International application No.
PCT/AU00/00691

Box No. III AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The following person is agent common representative
 and has been appointed earlier and represents the applicant(s) also for international preliminary examination.
 is hereby appointed and any earlier appointment of (any) agent(s) common representative is hereby revoked.
 procedure before the International Preliminary Examining Authority, in addition to the agent(s)/common representative appointed above.

Name and address. (Family name followed by given name; for example: full official designation. The address may include postal code and name of country)

Spinson & Ferguson
GPO Box 3898
Sydney, New South Wales 2001
AUSTRALIA

Telephone No. :
(02) 9207 0777

Faxsimile No. :
(02) 9232 8555

Telex/printer No. :
AA 23165

Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is left instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Box No. IV STATEMENT CONCERNING AMENDMENTS

The applicant wishes the International Preliminary Examining Authority*

- (i) to start the international preliminary examination on the basis of the international application as originally filed
- (ii) to take into account the amendments under Article 34 of
 - the description (amendments attached).
 - the claims (amendments attached)
 - the drawings (amendments attached).
- (iii) to take into account any amendments of the claims under Article 19 filed with the International Bureau (a copy is attached).
- (iv) to disregard any amendments of the claims made under Article 19 and to consider them as reversed.
- (v) to postpone the start of the international preliminary examination until the expiration of 20 months from the priority date unless that Authority receives a copy of any amendments made under Article 19 or a notice from the applicant that he does not wish to make such amendments (Rule 69.1(d)). (This check-box may be marked only where the time limit under Article 19 has not yet expired.)

* Where no check-box is marked, International preliminary examination will start on the basis of the international application as originally filed or, where a copy of amendments to the claims under Article 19 and/or amendments of the international application under Article 34 are received by the International Preliminary Examining Authority before it has begun to draw up a written opinion or the international preliminary examination report, as so amended.

Box No. V ELECTION OF STATES

The applicant hereby elects all eligible States (that is, all States which have been designated and which are bound by Chapter II of the PCT) except

(If the applicant does not wish to elect certain eligible States, the name(s) or country, codes(s) of those States must be indicated above)

Form PCT/IPEA/401 (second sheet) (January 1991)

See Notes to the demand form.

International application No.
PCT/AU00/00691

Sheet No. 3

Box No. VI CHECK LIST

The demand is accompanied by the following documents for the purposes of international preliminary examination:

1. amendments under Article 34

Description

sheets

Claims

sheets

Drawings

sheets

2. letter accompanying amendments under Article 34

sheets

3. copy of amendments under Article 19

sheets

4. copy of statement under Article 19

sheets

5. other (specify)

sheets

For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only

Received

not received

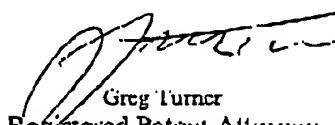
The demand is also accompanied by the item(s) marked below:

1. separate signed power of attorney
 2. copy of general power of attorney
 3. statement explaining lack of signature

4. fee calculation sheet
 5. other (specify):

Box No. VII SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the demand).



Greg Turner
Registered Patent Attorney
SPRUSON & FERGUSON

For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only

1. Date of actual receipt of DEMAND

2. Adjusted date of receipt of demand due to CORRECTIONS under Rule 60.1(b):

3. The date of receipt of the demand is AFTER the expiration of 19 months from the priority date and item 4 and 5, below, does not apply. The applicant has been informed accordingly.

4. The date of receipt of the demand is WITHIN the period of 19 months from the priority date as extended by virtue of Rule 80.5

5. Although the date of receipt of the demand is after the expiration of 19 months from the priority date, the delay in arrival is EXCUSED pursuant to Rule 82.

For International Bureau use only

Demand received from IP/EA on:

Form PCT/IP/EA/401 (last sheet) (January 1994)

See Notes to the demand form

For receiving Office use only

REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

International Application No. _____

International Filing Date _____

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum) 463998C

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION

A LOCATING KEY FOR A KEYBOARD OR KEYPAD

Box No. II APPLICANT

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (i.e. country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

SABATO, Alberto R
21 Clarendon Street
Mosman, New South Wales, 2088
AUSTRALIA

 This person is also inventor

Telephone No.

(02) 9968 2418

Facsimile No.

(02) 9968 2827

Telex No.

State (i.e. country) of nationality:

Italy

State (i.e. country) of residence:

Australia

This person is applicant
for the purposes of: all designated
States all designated States except the
United States of America the United States
of America only the States indicated in the
Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (i.e. country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

This person is:

- applicant only
- applicant and inventor
- inventor only (If this check-
box is marked, do not fill in
below.)

State (i.e. country) of nationality:

State (i.e. country) of residence:

This person is applicant
for the purposes of: all designated
States all designated States except
the United States of America the United States
of America only the States indicated in
the Supplemental Box Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.

Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the
applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:

 agent common representative

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The
address must include postal code and name of country)

SPRUSON & FERGUSON
GPO BOX 3898
Sydney
New South Wales 2001
AUSTRALIA

Telephone No.
(02) 9207 0777Facsimile No.
(02) 9232 8555Telex No.
A.A. 23165

Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to
indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent

Form PCT/R0/101 (first sheet) (January 1997; reprint January 1998)

See Notes to the request form

[R:\LIBWJ31981.doc:5]

Sheet No. 2

B x No. V DESIGNATION OF STATES

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a) (mark the applicable check-boxes; at least one must be marked):

Regional Patent

AP ARIPO Patent: GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KR Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, SD Sudan, SL Sierra Leone, SZ Swaziland, TZ United Republic of Tanzania, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT

EA Eurasian Patent: AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan, BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakhstan, MD Republic of Moldova, RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT

EP European Patent: AT Austria, BE Belgium, CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein, CY Cyprus, DE Germany, DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT

OA OAPI Patent: BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, GW Guinea-Bissau, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT (If other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

National Patent (If other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AE United Arab Emirates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LR Liberia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AL Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LS Lesotho
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM Armenia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LT Lithuania
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AT Austria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LU Luxembourg
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AU Australia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LV Latvia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AZ Azerbaijan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MA Morocco
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BA Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MD Republic of Moldova
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BB Barbados	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MG Madagascar
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BG Bulgaria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MK The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BR Brazil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MN Mongolia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BY Belarus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MW Malawi
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA Canada	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MX Mexico
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Norway
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CN China	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NZ New Zealand
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CR Costa Rica	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL Poland
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CU Cuba	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PT Portugal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CZ Czech Republic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RO Romania
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DE Germany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RU Russian Federation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DK Denmark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD Sudan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DM Dominica	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SE Sweden
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EE Estonia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SG Singapore
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES Spain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SI Slovenia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI Finland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SK Slovakia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GB United Kingdom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SL Sierra Leone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GD Grenada	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TJ Tajikistan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GE Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TM Turkmenistan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GH Ghana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TR Turkey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Gambia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TT Trinidad and Tobago
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HR Croatia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TZ United Republic of Tanzania
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HU Hungary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UA Ukraine
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ID Indonesia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UG Uganda
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IL Israel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> US United States of America
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN India	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UZ Uzbekistan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS Iceland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VN Viet Nam
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JP Japan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YU Yugoslavia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KE Kenya	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZA South Africa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KG Kyrgyzstan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZW Zimbabwe
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KP Democratic People's Republic of Korea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DZ Algeria AG Antigua & Barbuda
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KR Republic of Korea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ML Mozambique BZ Belize
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KZ Kazakhstan	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LC Saint Lucia	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LK Sri Lanka	

Check-boxes reserved for designating States which have become party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet:

DZ Algeria AG Antigua & Barbuda

ML Mozambique BZ Belize

Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except the designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation of a designation consists of the filing of a notice specifying that designation and Form PCT/RG/101 (second sheet) (January 2000))

See Notes to the request form

Sheet N. 3

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM		Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box <input type="checkbox"/>	
The priority of the following earlier application(s) is hereby claimed:			
Country (in which, or for which, the application was filed)	Filing Date (day/month/year)	Application No.	Office of filing (only for regional or international application)
Item (1) Australia	(21.06.99) 21 June 1999	PQ1115	
Item (2) Australia	(08.12.99) 8 December 1999	PQ4525	
Item (3)			

Mark the following check-box if the certified copy of the earlier application is to be issued by the Office which for the purposes of the present international application is the receiving Office (a fee may be required):

The receiving Office is hereby requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) identified above as item(s):

8. (2)

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (If two or more International Searching Authorities are competent ISA/ _____ to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):

Earlier search (fill in where a search (international, international type or other) by the International Searching Authority has already been carried out or requested and the Authority is now requested to base the international search, to the extent possible, on the results of that earlier search. Identify such search or request either by reference to the relevant application (or the translation thereof) or by reference to the search request:

Country (or regional Office):

Date (day/month/year)

Number:

Box No. VIII CHECK LIST

This international application contains the following number of sheets:

1. request	:	3	sheets
2. description	:	14	sheets
3. claims	:	4	sheets
4. abstract	:	1	sheets
5. drawings	:	10	sheets
Total		32	sheets

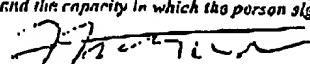
This international application is accompanied by the item(s) marked below:

8. <input type="checkbox"/> separate signed power of attorney	5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fee calculation sheet
2. <input type="checkbox"/> copy of general power of attorney	6. <input type="checkbox"/> separate indications concerning deposited microorganisms
3. <input type="checkbox"/> statement explaining lack of signature	7. <input type="checkbox"/> nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing (ciskens)
4. <input type="checkbox"/> priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):	8. <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify):

Figure No. of the drawings (if any) should accompany the abstract when it is published.

Box No. IX SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AGENT

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).


Greg Turner
Registered Patent Attorney
SPRUSON & FERGUSON

For receiving Office use only

1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:	2. Drawings
3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:	
4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):	
5. International Searching Authority specified by the applicant: ISA/	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid

Drawings

 received: not received:

For International Bureau use only

Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:

Form PCT/RO/101 (last sheet) (January 1994, reprint July 1996)

See Notes to the request form

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU00/00691

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: B41J 5/12, 5/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC B41J 5/-, G05G 1/-, G06C 7/-, G06F 3/-, G09B 13/-, H01H 13/70Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
AU: IPC B41J 5/10, 5/12Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPAT plus keywords

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5583497 A (HANKES) 10 December 1996 See whole document, particularly figure 2.	1-10
A	GB 2134042 A (THE LAITRAM CORP) 8 August 1984 See whole document	1-10
A	GB 2087313 A (SOCIETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A.) 26 May 1982 See whole document	1-10
A	WO 8102272 A (LITTERICK) 20 August 1981 See whole document, particularly page 41 lines 11-20 & figure 7.	1-10

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
22 August 2000Date of mailing of the international search report
30 AUG 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU

Authorized officer

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au
Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929DEREK BUTLER
Telephone No : (02) 6283 2347

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00691

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4180336 A (LONSDALE) 25 December 1979 See whole document	1-10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU00/00691

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member				
US	5583497	WO	9813937	AU	73753/96		
GB	2134042	CA	1213067	CA	1213987	CA	1221465
		CA	1224737	CA	1243096	DE	3401941
		DE	3401976	DE	3401942	FR	2539894
		FR	2539895	FR	2539896	GB	2133745
		GB	2134293	GB	2134294	GB	2149946
		IT	1221794	IT	1221795	IT	1221796
		JP	59139467	JP	59140547	JP	59140548
		JP	59205635	US	4547860	US	4549279
		US	4910697	US	4924431	US	4999795
		US	5008847	US	5058046	US	5067103
		US	5105375	US	5124940	US	5245559
		US	5383141	US	4994992	US	4891777
		US	5289394	US	4631700	US	4567567
		US	4680725	US	4860234	US	5062070
		US	5003503	US	5184315	CA	1300756
		EP	294518	JP	63311523	CA	1307351
		EP	306063	JP	1072257	US	5757350
		US	5092665	US	5296953	US	5559616
		US	5774102	US	5877739	CA	1278890
		DE	3501982	GB	2156131	GB	2204172
		HK	711/91	HK	712/91	JP	61149933
		SG	559/91	SG	560/91	JP	61140924
		FR	2558606	JP	60156047	JP	60156046
		JP	62049604				
GB	2087313	AU	69825/81	BR	8102888	CA	1158590
		CH	636715	DE	3117186	DK	1839/81
		EP	39853	ES	502047	ES	8205471
		FI	811278	GR	74895	JP	57006929
		MY	589/85	NO	811536	PH	20815
		SG	287/84	ZA	8102954		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU00/00691

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
WO	8102272	EP	45307	GB	2071578		
US	4180336	AU	41964/78	CA	1132114	GB	2009047

END OF ANNEX

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU00/00691

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: B41J 5/12, 5/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC B41J 5/-, G05G 1/-, G06C 7/-, G06F 3/-, G09B 13/-, H01H 13/70

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

AU: IPC B41J 5/10, 5/12

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPAT plus keywords

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5583497 A (HANKES) 10 December 1996 See whole document, particularly figure 2.	1-10
A	GB 2134042 A (THE LAITRAM CORP) 8 August 1984 See whole document	1-10
A	GB 2087313 A (SOCIETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A.) 26 May 1982 See whole document	1-10
A	WO 8102272 A (LITTERICK) 20 August 1981 See whole document, particularly page 41 lines 11-20 & figure 7.	1-10

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
22 August 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

30 AUG 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU

Authorized officer

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au
Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929DEREK BUTLER
Telephone No : (02) 6283 2347

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00691

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4180336 A (LONSDALE) 25 December 1979 See whole document	1-10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU00/00691

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member				
US	5583497	WO	9813937	AU	73753/96	
GB	2134042	CA	1213067	CA	1213987	CA 1221465
		CA	1224737	CA	1243096	DE 3401941
		DE	3401976	DE	3401942	FR 2539894
		FR	2539895	FR	2539896	GB 2133745
		GB	2134293	GB	2134294	GB 2149946
		IT	1221794	IT	1221795	IT 1221796
		JP	59139467	JP	59140547	JP 59140548
		JP	59205635	US	4547860	US 4549279
		US	4910697	US	4924431	US 4999795
		US	5008847	US	5058046	US 5067103
		US	5105375	US	5124940	US 5245559
		US	5383141	US	4994992	US 4891777
		US	5289394	US	4631700	US 4567567
		US	4680725	US	4860234	US 5062070
		US	5003503	US	5184315	CA 1300756
		EP	294518	JP	63311523	CA 1307351
		EP	306063	JP	1072257	US 5757350
		US	5092665	US	5296953	US 5559616
		US	5774102	US	5877739	CA 1278890
		DE	3501982	GB	2156131	GB 2204172
		HK	711/91	HK	712/91	JP 61149933
		SG	559/91	SG	560/91	JP 61140924
		FR	2558606	JP	60156047	JP 60156046
		JP	62049604			
GB	2087313	AU	69825/81	BR	8102888	CA 1158590
		CH	636715	DE	3117186	DK 1839/81
		EP	39853	ES	502047	ES 8205471
		FI	811278	GR	74895	JP 57006929
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END OF ANNEX